

STEP UP TO 840

ONE NUMBER, MANY USES

NAIS | NATIONAL
ANIMAL
IDENTIFICATION
SYSTEM

The absence of individual animal identification may leave the cattle industry at risk during a disease outbreak. Consider the following:

- Less than half of adult cattle—45%—have any form of official USDA identification
- The number of heifers identified as part of the Brucellosis Eradication Program has declined by 55% since 1992
- About half of cows and heifers have no form of individual identification

Protect your animals and your livelihood. Updating your approach to animal ID will benefit your entire operation.

Why Is Animal ID Important?

Individual animal ID can help trace the source of a disease outbreak and locate affected and at-risk animals. Reduced use of individual animal ID can mean slower, less effective disease control efforts, resulting in increased economic hardships. For example, recent bovine tuberculosis tracebacks took as long as 199 days. This is a result of the need to test more herds than would be required if adequate identification were in place. Additional testing incurs additional expense and the disruption of the lives of cattle producers.

For these reasons and more, expanded use of individual animal ID in the cattle industry is a high priority.

Choose The “840” ID Solution

The “840” ID solution is the livestock identification solution—now and for the future! By choosing 840 eartags, you will be able to take advantage of



Radio frequency identification (RFID) eartags are now available with the 840 animal identification numbering system. Visual-only tags will be available soon. Go to www.usda.gov/nais/840 for more information.

all the opportunities that hinge on the official identification of your cattle.

These eartags are already used in Federal and State animal health programs and to facilitate interstate movement. In this role, eartags help enhance animal disease response. But 840 eartags can also be used to support participation in industry programs and marketing opportunities.

You can buy 840 eartags that incorporate radio frequency identification (RFID). Visual-only tags will also be an option in the near future. Each eartag uses a standardized 15-digit animal identification number, or AIN, that stays with the animal throughout its life.

Example of an AIN:

840 234 567 890 123

USA country code

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

You can help protect the health of your cattle and the economic well-being of the entire industry by participating in the National Animal Identification System. NAIS provides the opportunity for producers that are not part of a disease program to voluntarily participate in national animal health safeguarding efforts. Its goal is to limit the spread of animal diseases, minimize animal losses and economic impact, and protect producers' livelihoods.

By participating in NAIS, you will be alerted quickly when a disease that may affect your animals is detected in your area. You can then take the necessary steps to protect your animals' health. You might also be able to eliminate your animals from disease suspicion.

Your Animals. Your Livelihood. Your Future. Your NAIS.

One Number, Many Uses

Following are important ways you can use 840 eartags throughout your operation:

- **Animal Health Programs.** Federal and State animal health officials are using 840 eartags as a standard for individual animal identification. For example, the eartags may be used in place of program-specific IDs like silver metal ear tags and orange metal brucellosis tags.
- **Marketing Programs.** Official 840 eartags can be used in all USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) programs, including Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). They can also be used in other marketing programs for age-, source-, and process-verification and quality assurance.
- **Animal Movement.** Choose 840 eartags as your ID solution, and you can easily meet animal movement requirements and also help safeguard agriculture.
- **Genetic Programs and Breed Registries.** Easily manage and retrieve genetic and breed information for each animal by associating its records with a single ID number.



Tips on using 840 tags

Consider these suggestions when starting to use 840 eartags.

- You can use 840 eartags anytime official individual identification is needed.
- The 840 eartag should be applied to the left ear of the animal.
- Producers should identify calves before they leave their birth location or are commingled with cattle from other locations.

Getting Started

Follow these steps to get started.

1. Obtain a premises ID number.

Producers and animal owners should contact their State animal health official or Tribal authority to obtain a premises identification number.

Go to www.usda.gov/nais/getPIN for further information.

2. Use 840 eartags whenever official individual animal ID is needed.

To purchase tags, contact an 840 eartag manufacturer to locate a tag manager or reseller in your area.

For more information, go to www.usda/nais/840.

Additional Information

For more information about NAIS, contact:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
4700 River Road, Unit 43
Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1231
Telephone (301) 734-0799
Fax (301) 734-7964
www.usda.gov/nais

Your Animals. Your Livelihood. Your Future. Your NAIS.